

NO. 65.

July 1 to 31, 1911.

## NEW PLANT IMMIGRANTS.

ACANTHOSICYOS HORRIDA. (Cucurbitaceae.) 31401. Seeds of the narras from Walfisch Bay, West Africa. Presented by Mr. Richard Hörnig, Tsumeb, German Southwest Africa. "This plant is an important dune former and continues to grow with the increasing height of the dune, so that its younger shoots remain at the surface, forming a dense thorny shrub, while the root system penetrates to a considerable depth, tapping the underground water and securing such a supply that drops exude and fall from the cut ends of assimilating stems. Flowering commences in November, and by the middle of February the female plants produce ripe fruits, which are borne in great profusion, and for about four months in the year render the Hottentots independent of other sources of food, and to a large extent, of water also. The fruits are spheroidal in shape, and about nine inches in diameter. The juicy yellow flesh is much relished by the natives, who consume large quantities of it while fresh and lay by a store for winter use in the form of hard flat cakes obtained by evaporation, and its food value is attested by their fat and sleek appearance during the narras season. The faculty of enjoying the juice evidently has to be acquired, for it has a sweet sickly flavor, and contains an acid principle very irritating to the tongue and palate of those unaccustomed to it; it is said that at the end of the narras season the lips of even the habitual consumers are swollen and inflamed. The seeds, which somewhat resemble those of the squash, are very nutritious and were formerly exported to Cape Town under the name of 'butter nuts', where they found a market among the native population and were also used by Europeans as a substitute for sweet almonds." (Pearson, Notes on a Journey from Walfish Bay to Windhuk, Kew Bull. Misc. Inf. 9:342 (1907.) For distribution later.

ANONA MURICATA. (Anonaceae.) 31383. Seeds from Piracicaba, Brazil. Presented by Mr. Clinton D. Smith, Fazenda Modelo do Estado de Sao Paulo. "Variety Cabeça de Negro. This seems to me to belong to this species and variety. There are so many variations in the trees and in the fruits that I cannot as yet clearly determine the lines of separation. The natives call this fruit 'araticu'." (Smith.) For distribution later.

BRASSICA SP. (Brassicaceae.) 31476. Seeds of Chinese cabbage from China, presented by Mr. G. Weidmann Groff,